German immigrants were the first Europeans to set foot in North America. They helped establish the colony of New Amsterdam. However, it was religious tolerance that got them here. During that time, many European forces ordered their subjects to follow one religion. When they heard of William Penn and the right to worship, they immediately came over.

Ireland’s 1845 Potato Blight is often credited with launching the second wave of Irish immigration to America. The fungus which decimated potato crops created a devastating famine. Starvation lasted in Ireland for a long while and after five years a million Irish were dead.

Scandinavian came to America for exploration, some came to launch colonial adventures and some came to stay and follow their faith. Many ordinary Scandinavians chafing at the limited religious and political freedom in their homelands saw America as a land of liberty and traveled there to find new communities whey they might practice their conscience in peace. In the 19th century, a great migration took place in the lands. The once prosperous Scandinavians nations were rocked by political strife and social upheaval as regional wars and agricultural disasters caused instability in everyday life. Meanwhile the growing inequality between the poor and rich drove thousands of people to seek a better life elsewhere. This drove them to America.

The Japanese began their journey in search of peace and prosperity leaving an unstable homeland for a life of hard work and a chance to provide a better future for their children. Since 1639, Japan had maintained an official policy of isolation from Europe and most of its colonies and emigration was strictly controlled. However, in the years that followed, Japan went under a tremendous social transformation and for many Japanese the U.S increasingly became a model not only of modern military but also of a desirably way of life. After the Meji Restoration in 1868, Japan’s rapid urbanization and industrialization brought about great social disruption and agricultural decline. As farmers were forced to leave their lands and workers were left jobless by foreign competition, they looked more and morefor a better life outside the islands of th